

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 30, 1879

Melville House, Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., August 30/79. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

I have after many attempts, made your frictional transmitter to work equal to the Blake, and I have given orders to have a pair of instruments made with screw adjustments. I expect them today. But we can't issue them till they are patented. In case you have not a copy of the specifications at hand, I send one that you may execute it for the Patent Office. If you return it to me, I shall send it to Ottawa. It may be made considerably shorter I should think, than the American specifications.

I have not tried the frictional transmitter without an induction coil. Will it work without? Dr. Roseburgh was here a few days ago with his carbon transmitter. I don't know its construction but its effect was inferior to that of the box telephone. In his patent, he claims I understand, the combination of an induction coil with a carbon transmitter. If this matter of patenting is not attended to immediately, we must give up all hope of using your invention.

Mabel's letter gave us the first intimation in reference to the School of Oratory. I am glad to know through Mr. Williams, that you have seen him about arranging 2 for sale of the Canadian Patents. Push this business. There is nothing done yet. About the Royal Society I am thoroughly ashamed. Their Secretary made special arrangements for you with the Board of Directors, and you allowed his trouble and courtesy to pass unacknowledged. If you are satisfied with your conduct in this matter, you are easily pleased—with yourself. We are happy to hear such good accounts of Elsie. It is a pity to lose such a delightful season as we have at present, but I hope you will not be long in taking advantage of it. The Marquis of Lorn and the Princess Louise are to be in Brantford on September 16th, could you not manage to be here?

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All join me in love to Mabel, Elsie and yourself, and in kind regards to Mrs. Hubbard and family.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.